Shortage of Coal Stocks in Various Mines

706. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been shortage of coal in the coal stocks of various mines under Bharat Coking Coal Limited for the last two years;

(b) if so, the quantity and value of coal shortage in 1991-92 and so far in 1992-93 in each mine;

(c) whether Government have instituted any inquiry to find out the causes of the shortage;

(d) if so, what are the details of the inquiry report and the action taken thereon;

(e) what steps Government have so far taken to meet the shortage of coal in the coal stock o mines; and

(f) what action has been taken against the officials found responsible for the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (f) Shortages in coal stocks in BCCL have come to notice and a Committee has been appointed under the Chairmanship of Chairman Cum Managing Director, Northern Coalfields Limited to make an in depth study of the shortages and carry out spot verification and fix the responsibility for the shortages in the stock. Action to meet the shortages and also action against officials responsible for the shortage will depend upon the findings of the Committee.

Action Plan to Improve Availability of Coal

707. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: SHRI IQBAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have formulated an action plan for improving the availability of coal to small consumers particulary the domestic consumers in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the manner in which Government propose to implement the plan successfully in the country in view of the fact that most of the coal goes into the blackmarket through the dealers and retailers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Coal Companies have well laid down policy and plan for catering to the coal requirements of all consumers including those in the small scale sector.

As regards domestic consumers, soft coke supplies are made by coal companies as per the allocation fixed by the Ministry of Coal and against the sponsorship issued by the concerned State Governments within the earmarked quantity.

Small Scale Industries receive coal against linkage on sponsorship by rail/road on regular basis. Supplies against shortfall under rail movement are also made good by road from identified road linked consumers.

With a view to improve the availability of coal to small scale consumers, Liberalised Scale Scheme for small consumers has also been introduced by CIL under which any buyer can draw coal upto a maximum of 1000 tonnes at a time. In addition, Coal India Ltd. have recently launched a scheme for developing wholesale trade in coal, which shall improve the coal availability to small consumers even further.

In order to improve availability of domestic fuel through out the country, CIL have launched a mission under which private entrepreneurs have been encouraged to set up (SSF/Briquetting Units with the technology developed by the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute.

(c) the Plan and Policies in respect of supply of coal to consumers have been effectively implemented during the past few years. With the recent amendment in the Colliery Control Order coupled with the introduction of Liberalised Sale Scheme and the development of wholesale trade in coal the black-marketing of coal is likely to be reduced substantially.